COLLECT CALL

TELEPHONE EFFECT



USER MANUAL

ABSTRACT DSP

VERSION 1.0

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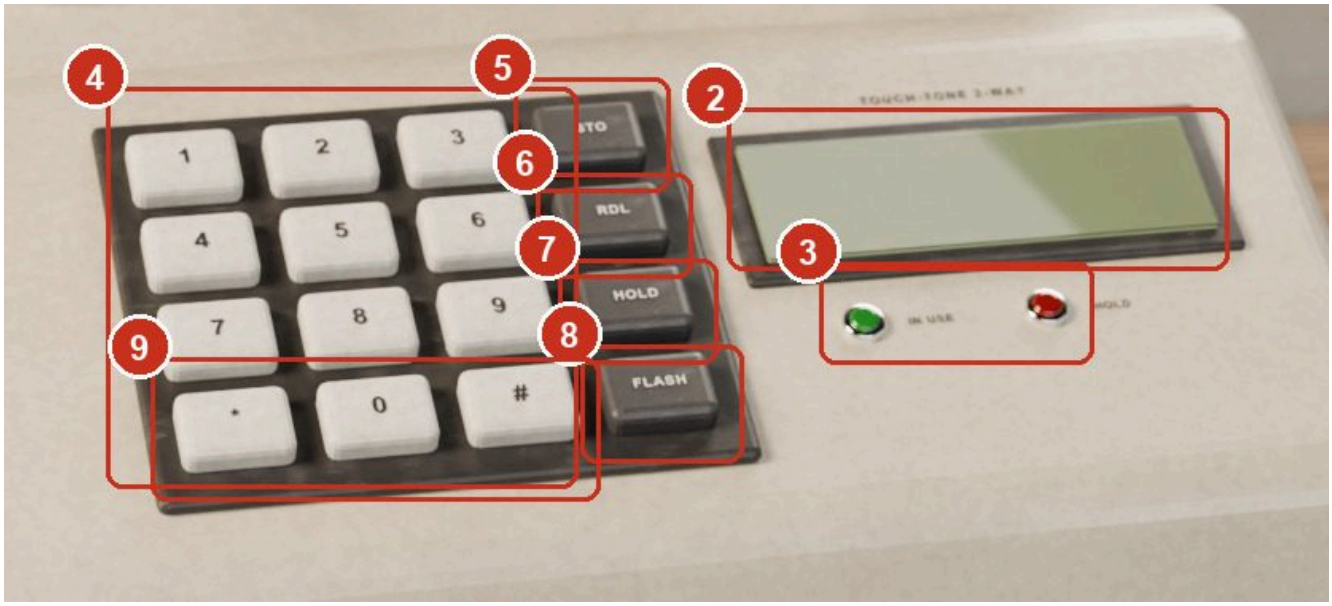


1 Welcome

Collect Call puts a voice, an instrument or a whole mix on the other end of a line: a landline, a payphone, an AM radio, a walkie-talkie, a megaphone or a CB radio. Each circuit has its own band, its own kind of distortion and its own noise, from mains hum to radio static and squelch. It comes out about as loud as it went in, so you can switch freely.

Thank you for choosing Collect Call.

Quick start

1. Insert Collect Call on a track. It opens on the **Payphone** circuit.
2. Press a **CIRCUIT** key to choose the line. The red **LINE** counter shows which one.
3. Turn **DRIVE** for more grit and **NOISE** for more of the line's own hiss, hum or static.
4. Use **BAND** to slide the line's range down for a darker, smaller sound or up for a thinner, brighter one.
5. Press **HOLD** on the keypad to compare with the dry signal.

Or press a number key: 1 to 0 dial ten ready-made sounds.

2 Installation and activation

Run the installer for your system. If Collect Call doesn't appear, rescan plug-ins in your host.

	WINDOWS	MACOS
System	Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit	Apple Silicon or Intel
Formats	VST3, CLAP	AU, VST3, CLAP
Installed to	C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3 and \CLAP	/Library/Audio/Plug-Ins/Components, /VST3 and /CLAP
Hosts	Any 64-bit VST3 or CLAP host	Logic Pro, GarageBand and any 64-bit AU, VST3 or CLAP host

FL Studio: open Options > Manage plugins and click Find installed plugins. Collect Call appears under Effects.

Your presets are saved in **Documents/Collect Call/Presets** and your speed dials in **Documents/Collect Call/Speed Dial**. Back up that folder to keep them.

Trial and activation

Collect Call runs fully for **7 days** as a free trial. The display shows the days left when you open it. After the trial it passes audio through untouched until you activate it.

1. Click the **COLLECT CALL** badge, then the license line on the About card (or click the display once the trial has ended).
2. Paste the license key from your receipt email and click **Activate**.

Activation needs an internet connection once; after that Collect Call works offline. Each key works on up to **3 computers**. To move it, choose **Deactivate this computer** on the license card first.

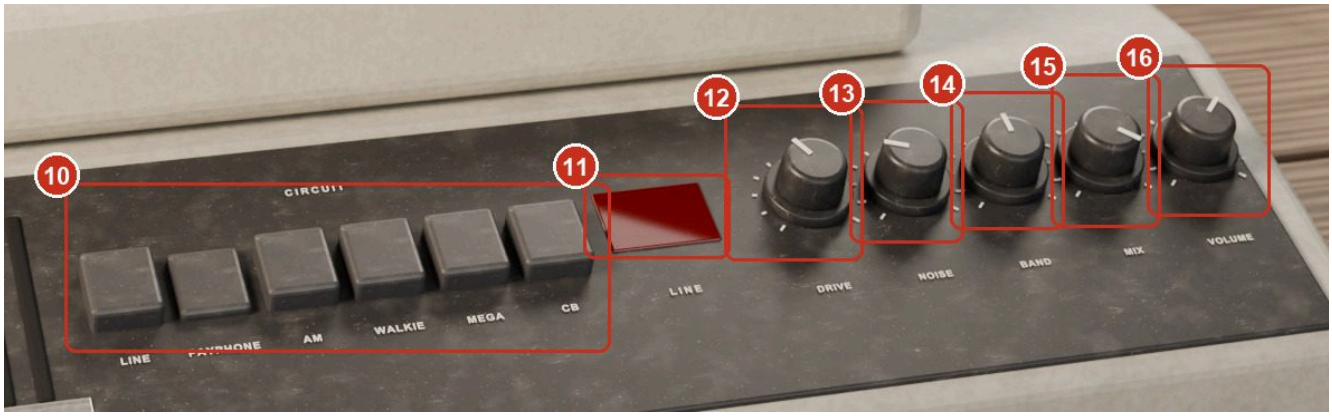
3 The phone and the machine

The phone on top holds the display and the keypad. The answering machine underneath holds the sound: the circuit keys, the line counter and the five knobs. Drag a knob up to turn it up, use the mouse wheel, or double-click to return to the default. The display shows the exact value while you turn.



CONTROL	RANGE	DEFAULT	WHAT IT DOES
1 **Badge**			Click for the About card (version, website, support email, license). Click again to close.
2 **Display**			Top line: the preset (B: when you're on compare slot B). Bottom line: the circuit, or what you just did or touched. Click it for the preset menu.
3 **IN USE / HOLD**	lit / dark		IN USE lights while sound is coming down the line. HOLD lights while the line is on hold.
4–9 **Keypad**			The speed dial. See section 5.
10 **CIRCUIT**	LINE, PAYPHONE, AM, WALKIE, MEGA, CB	PAYPHONE	Chooses the line. The pressed key stays down. See section 4.
11 **LINE**	01 to 06	02	Shows the circuit by number. Dashes while on hold.

12 **DRIVE**	0 to 100	40	How hard the line is driven into its own kind of distortion. The level stays about the same, so DRIVE changes the character, not the loudness.
13 **NOISE**	0 to 100	25	The line's own noise: hiss, mains hum, static or radio carrier, filtered like the signal. 0 is silent.
14 **BAND**	−100 to +100	0	Slides the line's range down or up by up to an octave. Down is darker and boxier, up is thinner and brighter.
15 **MIX**	0 to 100%	100%	Blends the dry signal with the line, for parallel use.
16 **VOLUME**	−24 to +12 dB	0 dB	Output level.



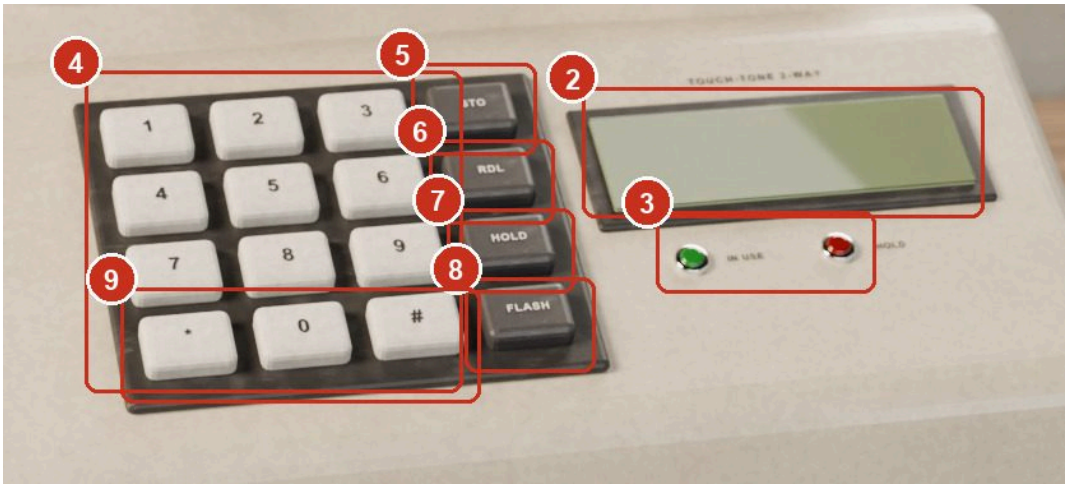
4 The six circuits

Every circuit is mono, like the real thing: both outputs carry the same signal. Each one levels the signal the way a line or radio does, then adds its own resonance, distortion and noise.

KEY	RANGE	DISTORTION	NOISE	CHARACTER
LINE	300 Hz to 3.4 kHz	Soft	Hiss	A clean landline call. The classic phone voice.
PAYPHONE	380 Hz to 3 kHz	Lopsided, like a carbon microphone	Hiss and mains hum	Rougher and more nasal, with the hum of an old booth.
AM	160 Hz to 4.5 kHz	Soft	Static	The widest and warmest: an old radio broadcast.
WALKIE	500 Hz to 2.8 kHz	Hard	Radio carrier, squelch tail	Narrow and squashed, with a burst of squelch when you stop talking.
MEGA	600 Hz to 3.8 kHz	Hard	Hiss	A horn speaker: loud, honky and ringing.
CB	350 Hz to 2.6 kHz	Hard	Radio carrier, squelch tail	Single sideband, slightly mistuned, so voices sound shifted and wobbly.

> BAND slides each of these ranges by up to an octave either way, so every circuit can sit higher or lower in your mix.

5 The speed dial keypad



KEY	WHAT IT DOES
4 **1 to 0**	Dial a speed dial. Out of the box they hold the first ten factory presets.
5 **STO**	Store. Press STO, then a number, to save the current sound to that speed dial. Press STO again to cancel.
6 **RDL**	Redial: flips between compare slots A and B. Each holds a complete setting.
7 **HOLD**	Puts the line on hold: the dry signal passes through untouched, with a short crossfade, and the HOLD lamp lights. Your host's bypass controls it too.
8 **FLASH**	Dials a wrong number: a random circuit, DRIVE, NOISE and BAND, for happy accidents. MIX, VOLUME and HOLD stay as they are.
9 *** and #**	Step to the previous or next preset.

The speed dial menu (click the display) shows what each number holds.

6 Presets

Collect Call includes 12 factory presets. The first ten are on the keypad's speed dials 1 to 0. Loading a preset never changes HOLD.

PRESET	DIAL	CIRCUIT	WHAT IT DOES
Landline	1	LINE	A clean, everyday phone call.
Payphone Call	2	PAYPHONE	Grittier, with booth hum.
AM Radio Ghost	3	AM	A dark, staticky old broadcast.
Walkie-Talkie	4	WALKIE	Squashed, with squelch between phrases.
Megaphone Rally	5	MEGA	A driven horn for chants and hooks.
CB Trucker	6	CB	Mistuned sideband with plenty of carrier noise.
Long Distance	7	LINE	A faint, faraway line full of hiss.
Bad Connection	8	PAYPHONE	Overdriven and noisy: a call breaking up.
Hot Mic	9	MEGA	Almost all distortion, nearly no noise.
Parallel Line	0	LINE	45% mix: phone character blended under the dry sound.
Night Shift Radio		AM	A low, warm radio at 70% mix.
Intercom Buzz		WALKIE	A thin, bright intercom.

Your presets and A/B

Choose **Save preset...** from the display's menu to save your settings. They appear under **Your presets**. The **Speed dial** submenu dials any of the ten numbers. **Copy A to B** (or B to A) copies one compare slot to the other.

7 Specifications

Channels	Mono or stereo in; the line is mono, like the real thing, on both outputs
Latency	None
Level	Calibrated so a voice comes out about as loud as it went in, on every circuit and DRIVE setting
Distortion	Anti-aliased, so it stays clean at any sample rate
HOLD, MIX at 0	The dry signal, untouched
Formats	VST3, CLAP (Windows); AU, VST3, CLAP (macOS); 64-bit only

8 Tips

Intro and breakdown vocals. Put Collect Call on the lead and automate HOLD: phone voice in the intro, full voice when the beat drops.

Keep it in the pocket. On a busy mix, MIX at 30–50% adds phone character without losing the body of the sound.

Tuck it in with BAND. If the phone voice fights the snare or the hats, slide BAND down; if it gets lost under the bass, slide it up.

Drums and samples. AM or LINE on a drum loop gives an instant lo-fi break. Add a little NOISE for vinyl-radio texture.

Find a sound fast. Press FLASH a few times, then STO and a number to keep one you like.

Compare fairly. The level stays about the same as you switch circuits, so HOLD gives a fair before and after.

9 Troubleshooting and support

PROBLEM	SOLUTION
Collect Call doesn't appear in my host	Rescan plug-ins and check the install folders in section 2. On macOS, restart the host for AU.
It sounds mono	That's the line: phones and radios are mono. Use MIX to keep some of the stereo dry signal.
Nothing changes	Make sure HOLD is off (the HOLD lamp is dark and the LINE counter shows a number) and MIX is above 0.
Hiss or hum between phrases	That's the line's noise. Turn NOISE down, or to 0 for none.
"Trial ended" on the display	Activate your key (section 2). If activation fails, check your internet connection, then email support with your order number.
"Maximum number of computers"	Deactivate the key on a computer you no longer use, or email support and we'll reset it.
Where are my presets?	Documents/Collect Call. Copy that folder to move your presets and speed dials to another computer.

Support

Email **support@abstractdsp.com** or visit **www.abstractdsp.com**. Please include your operating system, your host and the Collect Call version shown on the About card.

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